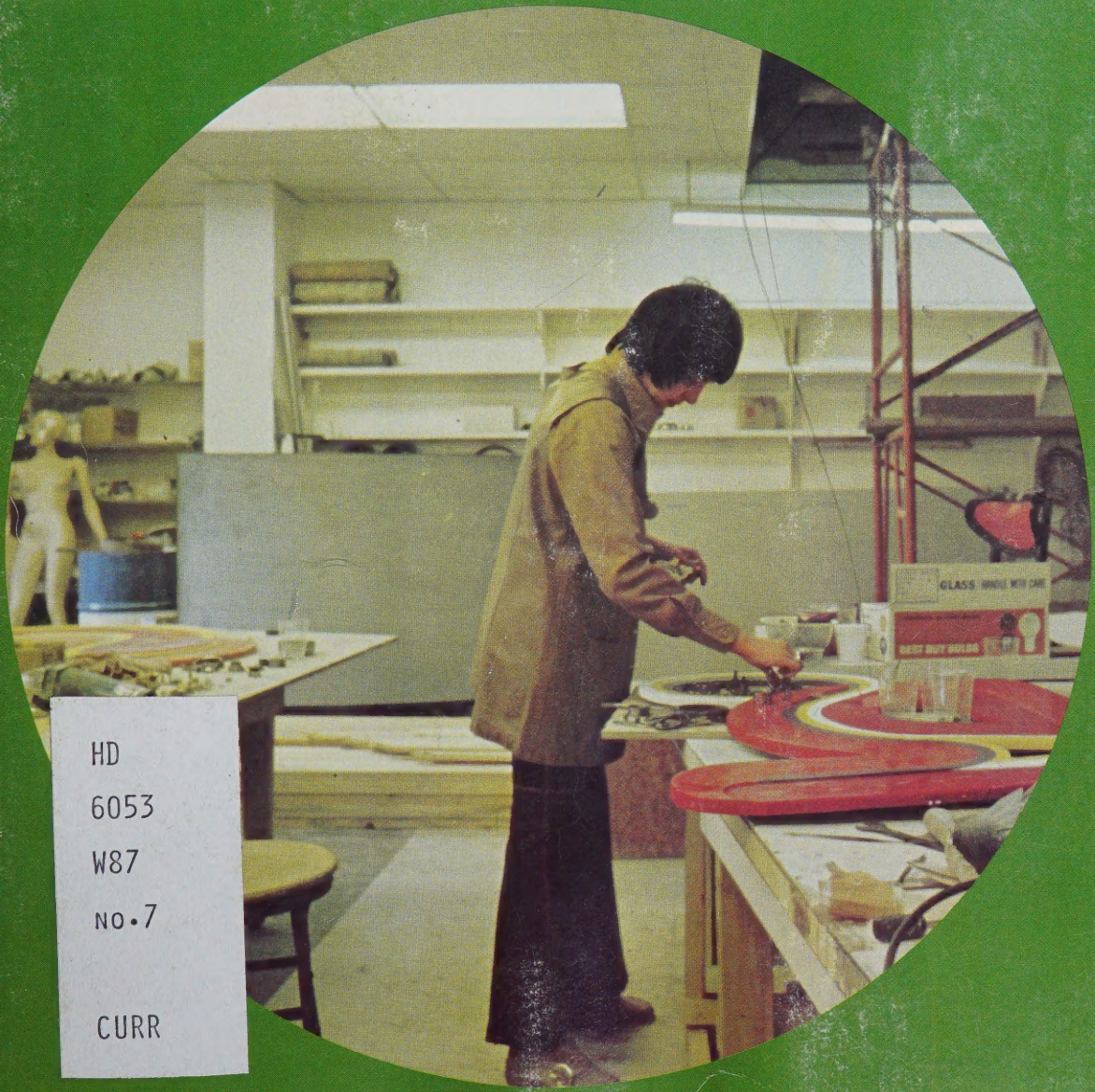
Beverley Allinson
Judith Lawrence

Maryon Makes Shapes

Women at Work



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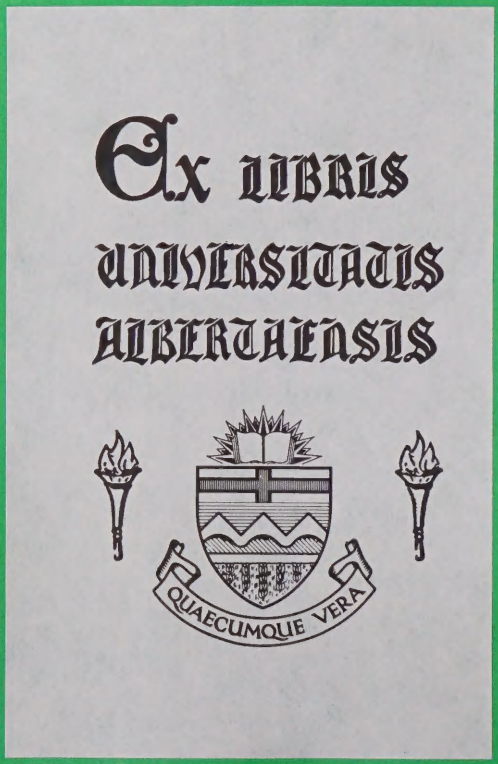
Women at Work

Maryon Makes Shapes
Ellie Sells Fish
Myra Builds a House
Doctor Mary's Animals



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Maryon works at making shapes. She is a sculptor. The place where she works is called a studio. It is a big room with lots of space.

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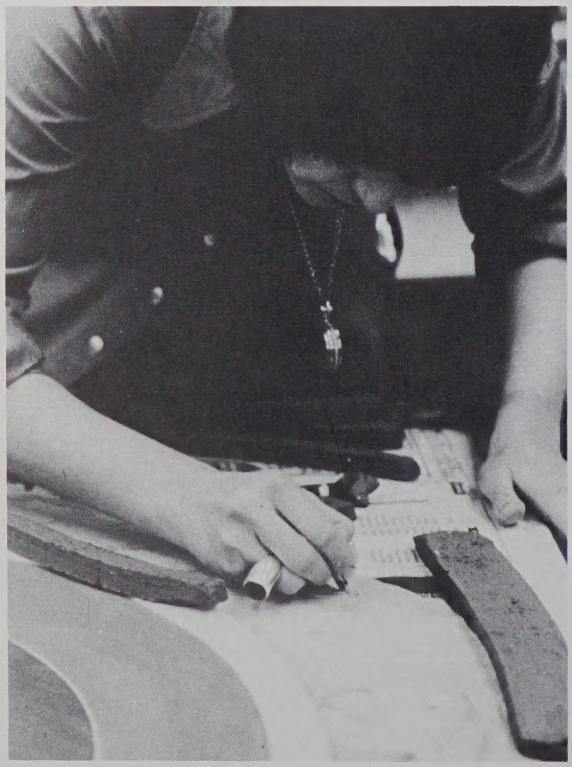
In her studio Maryon keeps everything she needs to work with. There are tools for cutting and polishing. There is modelling clay. There are brushes, and cans of paints. There are boxes of shiny metal pieces, tins of liquid plastic and big chunks of foam plastic. Maryon uses all these things to make her sculptures.

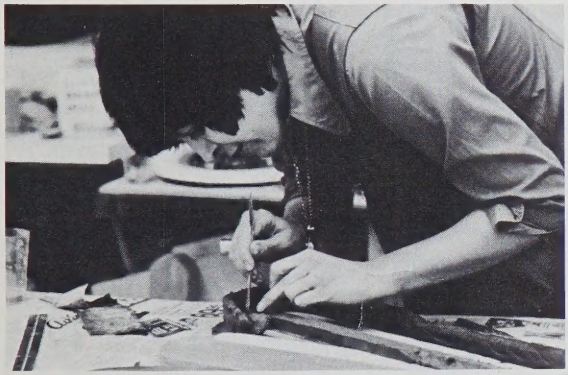
She also uses a metal called bronze. Some of her bronze sculptures are small enough to hold in her hand. Others are much bigger.

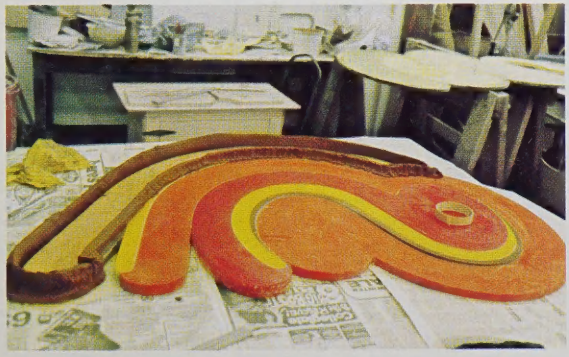
One day Maryon decided to make a piece of sculpture to hang on a wall. The shape began as an idea in her head. Maryon made a coloured drawing of her idea. Then she copied the shape of the drawing onto a large piece of wood. She decided to pour soft plastic onto the wood to make the coloured bands.

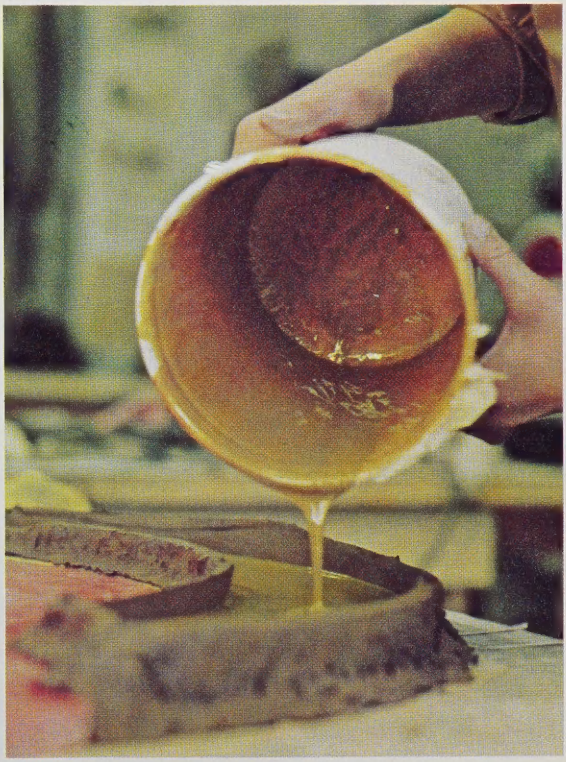


First she had to make an edge to hold the plastic in place. She used modelling clay to build a tiny wall. Then she poured the coloured plastic inside the clay wall.

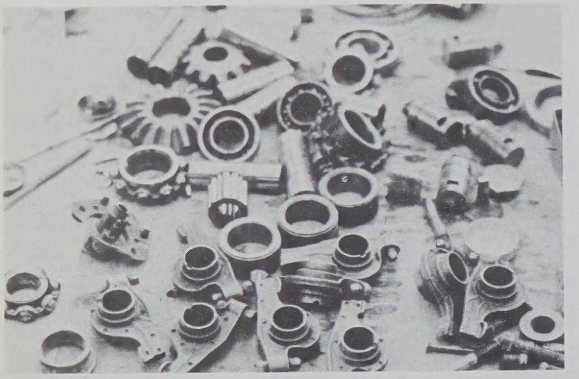
The bands of colour were made one by one. When one band set and became hard, the next wall could be made. Then the next colour could be poured.

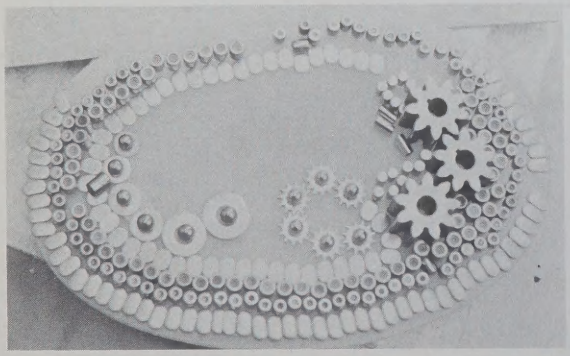


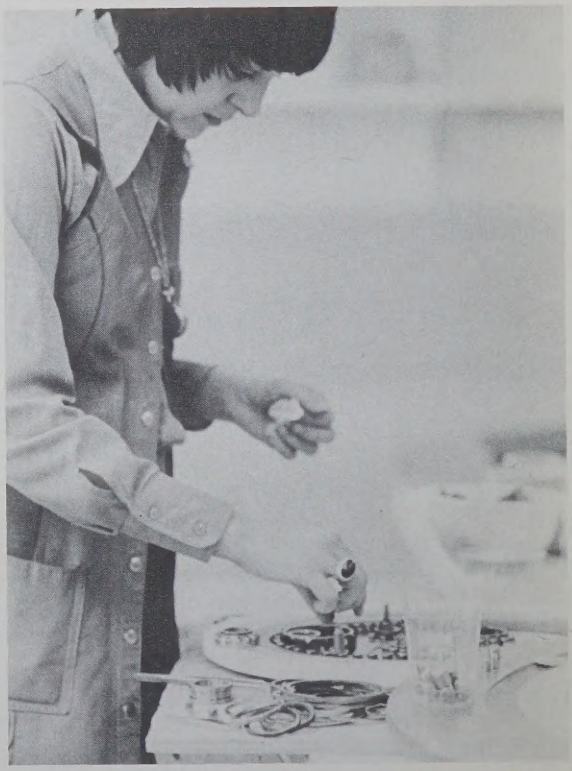




Maryon liked to use metal pieces with the plastic. She arranged the rings and cogs and ball-bearings in a way that pleased her. Then she poured clear plastic around them to keep them in place.







The last thing Maryon did was to polish the sculpture.

When Maryon has finished a lot of sculptures she takes them to a gallery.

The gallery has even more space than Maryon's studio. All the sculptures are placed so that people can see them properly. The large bronze sculptures are on special stands. The smaller bronzes are in glass cases. The walls are covered with other sculptures Maryon has made.

The gallery is filled with Maryon's work. Many people come to look at the sculptures. Some come to buy them.

With the money people pay for her sculptures, Maryon can buy the things she needs. She can buy more bronze and paint and plastic. The money she makes also pays for her rent, her food, and her clothes. In this way, Maryon makes her living.

Lisa and Mark are Maryon's friends.
They came to the gallery to see her show.

They liked looking at the sculptures.
They liked touching them, too.

"I remember when this was being made in Maryon's studio," said Lisa. "Do you remember, Mark?"

"Yes," said Mark. "I liked it when Maryon poured the hot metal into the mould she had made."

"It was like making jelly, but much more dangerous," said Lisa.

"And now it's cold and hard," Mark said. "Now we can touch it."

"This one feels smooth and cold," said Lisa. "It's like glass."

"Like a looking-glass," said Mark. "I can see myself in this. I'm tiny, and I'm way up there."

"Your sculptures make me think of all kinds of things," Lisa told Maryon. "This one is like two bones joined together."

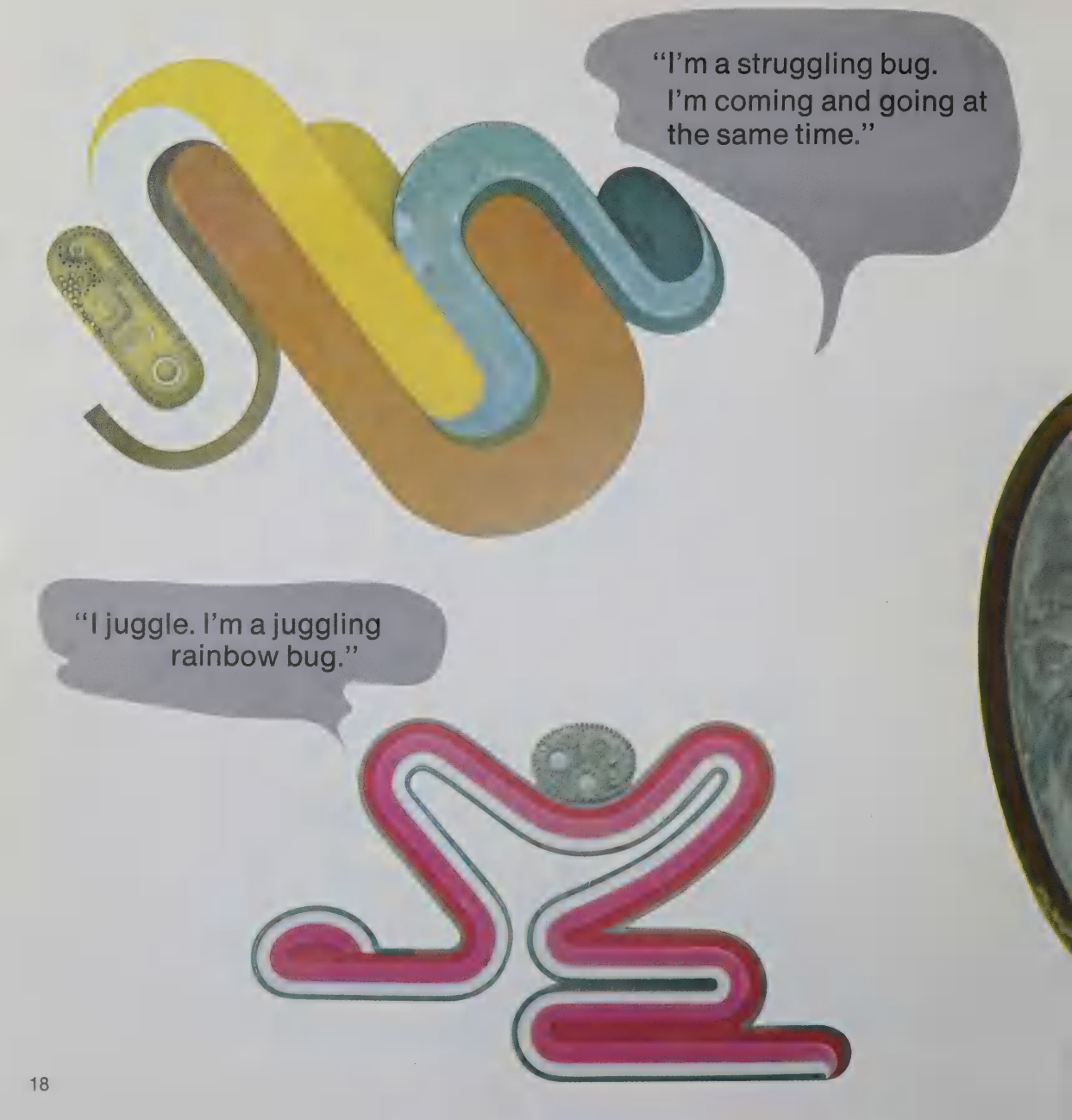
Maryon laughed. "I wasn't thinking of bones when I made it, but that's a nice idea. What does this one remind you of?"

"I think it looks like a shell," said Lisa.

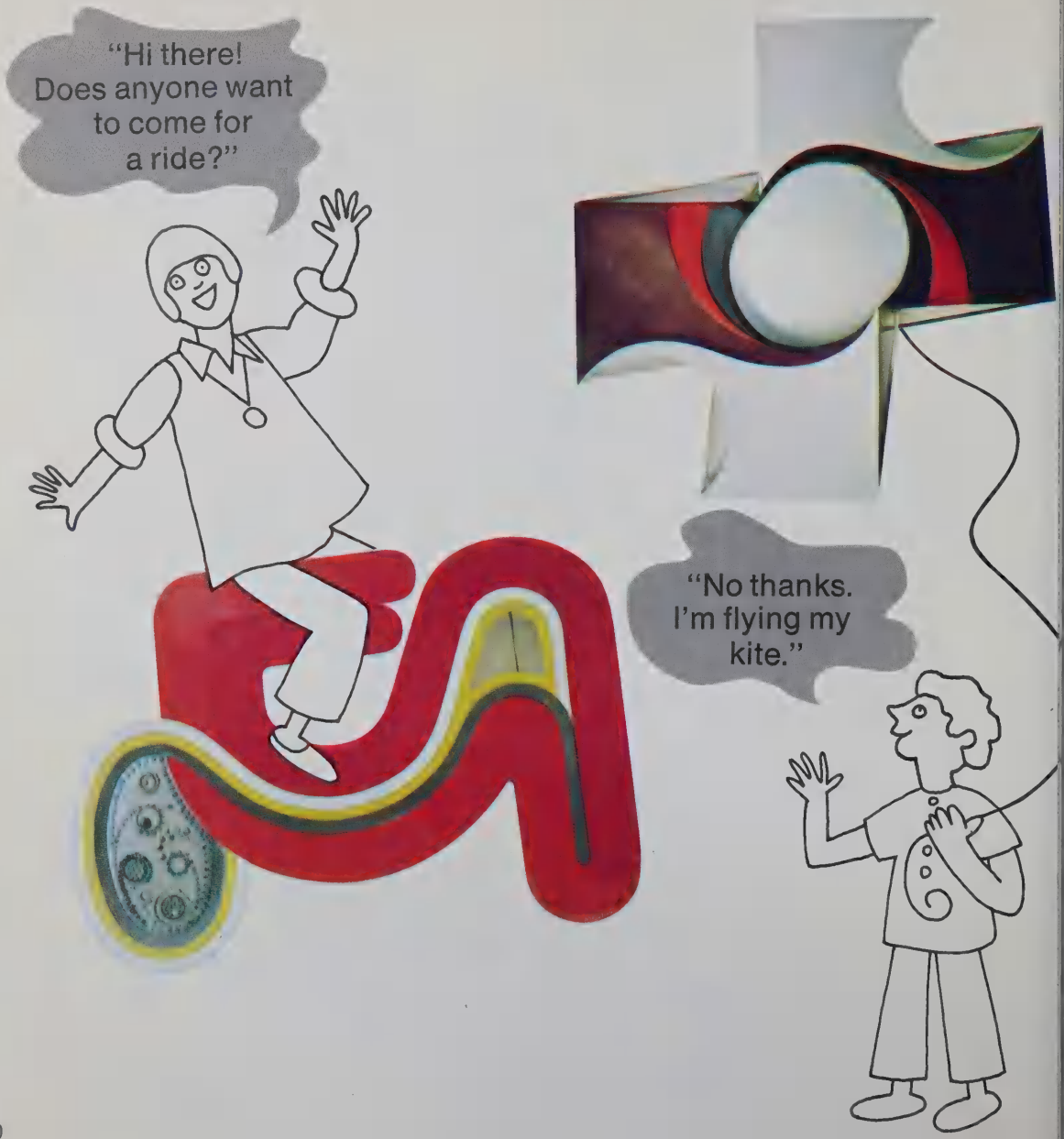
"I would call it 'Twister'," said Mark.

"I like the colours you've used in this one," said Lisa. "It looks like a rainbow bug. I can pretend it's a bug on a tree."

"A rainbow bug sitting on a tree," said Mark.


"I'm a struggling bug. I'm coming and going at the same time."
"I juggle. I'm a juggling rainbow bug."

"And I'm a snuggling bug.
Won't you come and
snuggle with me?"


"Hi there! Does anyone want to come for a ride?"
"No thanks. I'm flying my kite."

"Look at me!
I'm on a see-saw."

"It's true. These sculptures can become all kinds of things!" said Mark.

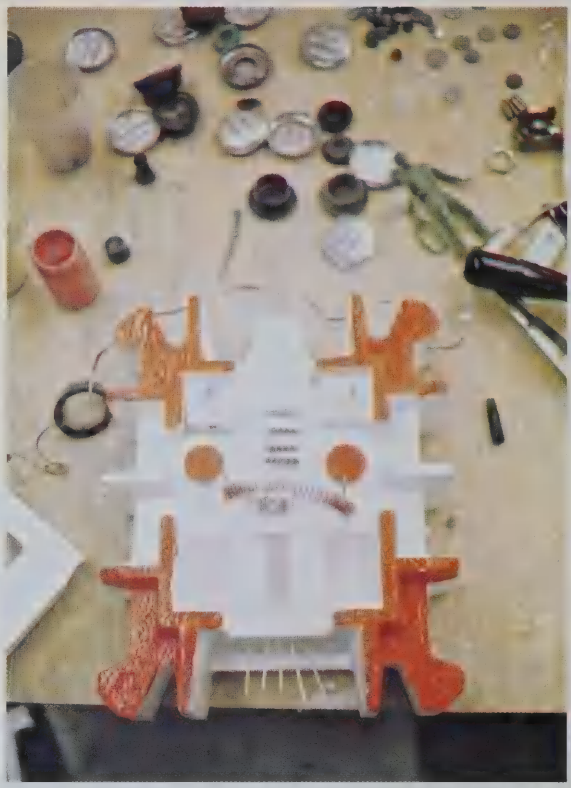
"I'd like to be a sculptor and make one as big as this," said Lisa.

"You can," Maryon said. "Next time you come to my studio you can both make sculptures."

When Lisa and Mark went to Maryon's studio, they started working right away. Each decided to work with foam plastic and to make different things.

Lisa made a totem pole and a robot with horns.

Mark made a mask.



"How did you get to be a sculptor, Maryon?" Mark asked.

"Well," said Maryon, "like all kids, I always liked to draw and paint. When I went to Art School sculpting was what I liked best so I studied and practised until I could make shapes exactly the way I wanted them to look."

"Did it take long to learn?" asked Mark.

"I studied for three years. Then I spent some time working with other sculptors. They taught me a lot of things I couldn't learn in books. And I taught myself a lot, just by trying things out. I'm still learning new things every day."

"There's a lot to decide when you're a sculptor," said Lisa. "I wasn't sure what size I wanted this to be when I started. It just grew as I worked."

"And I couldn't make up my mind what colours to use," said Mark.

"Why don't we make something together now?" asked Maryon.

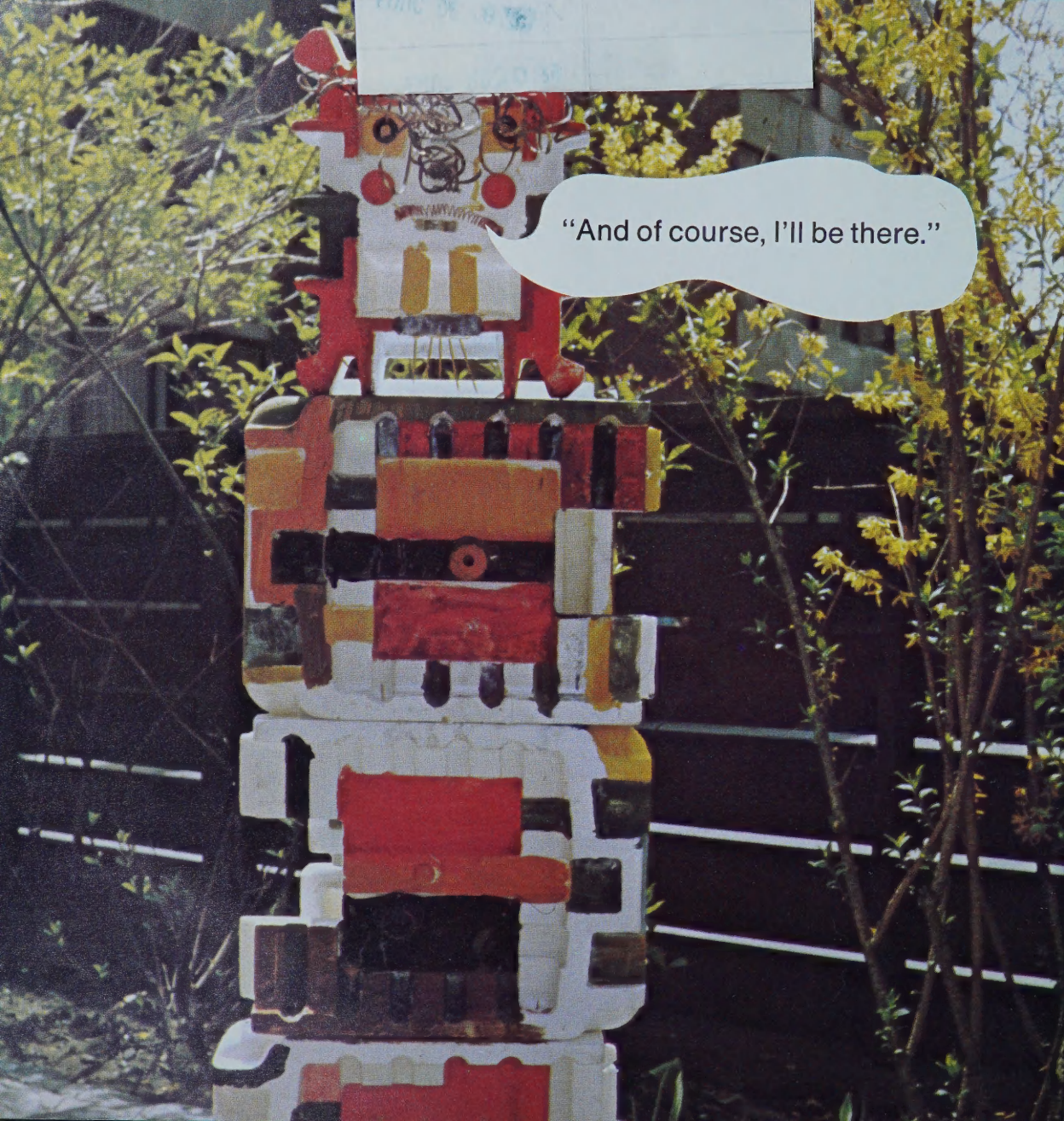
They joined all the pieces and built a tall totem pole. They painted it with bright colours and added bits of metal where they wanted them. When the totem pole was finished they all stood back to admire their work.

"It really looks good," said Maryon.

"Good enough to be in an art show!" said Mark.

"Hey!" said Lisa. "That's an idea. We can have our own art show. Will you come to it, Maryon?"

"I certainly will," said Maryon.


"And of course, I'll be there."

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